

**House of Representatives
Fisheries, Ecology and Parks
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April 5	1 hour	Seattle	Full Committee	Puget Sound Marine Health.	Briefing
June	3 hours	Seattle	Full Committee	Fisheries Management - Fish Hatchery Policy.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September 20	2 hours	Olympia	Full Committee	Fisheries Management: Salmon Recovery Overview.	Work Session/ Public Hearing
December 2	2 hours	Olympia	Full Committee	Puget Sound Marine Health, Toxics Management and Cleanup, and Habitat and Land Management.	Work Session/ Public Hearing

Project Title: Puget Sound Marine Health

Project Goal:

Review issues affecting the environmental health of the Puget Sound.

Project Description:

The health of Puget Sound has been the backdrop for a number of issues that the Committee has faced during the past two legislative sessions. Puget Sound is relied on for commerce, transportation, recreation, and economic development, however, those uses may affect the water body's use as habitat for marine mammals and other aquatic species. In addition to an overview of major factors impacting the health of Puget Sound, the project will focus on issues that could prove illustrative of the big picture. These issues include the lessons learned from the Point Wells oil spill, the causes and solutions for the depleted oxygen levels in Hood Canal, the state endangered species listing for the orca, and the effectiveness of the memorandum of understanding that has been entered into between the Department of Ecology and the cruise ship industry.

The Committee will participate in a briefing on April 5th with Congressional representatives on the status of Hood Canal provided by the Puget Sound Action Team.

The Committee will also conduct a work session during the December Committee Assembly to hear:

- 1) A report from the Department of Ecology regarding oil transfers and refueling (SSB 6641);
- 2) An update from the Department of Ecology regarding the effectiveness of the memorandum of understanding between the state and the cruise ship industry; and
- 3) An update from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the listing of the orca under the state endangered species list.

Number & Type of Meetings: (2) 1 briefing, 1 work session/public hearing

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Fisheries Management

Project Goal:

Conduct review of fisheries management issues with a focus on salmon recovery.

Project Description:

This project will educate committee members on salmon recovery programs and funding history. The Fisheries, Ecology and Parks Committee will coordinate with the Capital Budget and Appropriations Committees in regard to the funding history. Other items include reviewing the extent to which a cohesive state strategy exists, whether performance measures exist and whether goals are identified and being achieved, and to what extent spending is coordinated between different agencies and related issues.

In addition to the funding review, the Committee will invite tribal co-managers and review fisheries management programs with a focus on salmon recovery efforts. The overview shall include a review of the role regional salmon recovery groups and fishery advisory groups play in salmon recovery and fisheries management.

The project will include a work session and public hearing in Seattle on the new federal policy on hatchery salmon and recommendations from the Hatchery Scientific Review Group.

The September committee assembly meeting will include an overview from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board regarding the status of the state's salmon recovery efforts. The Committee will also hold a work session and public hearing to learn about regional salmon recovery efforts and the role of fishery advisory groups in fisheries management.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Toxics Management and Cleanup

Project Goal:

Conduct an overview of the toxics management and cleanup policies and programs.

Project Description:

The project includes an overview of the policies and programs for the management and cleanup of toxics and hazardous waste. In addition, the Committee will examine how an area-wide soil contamination strategy may be implemented, and review recommendations for the collection, recycling and reuse of electronic waste.

During the December committee assembly, the Committee will hear a report from the Department of Ecology regarding the recommendations for a state electronic waste collection, recycling, and reuse program (SHB 2488).

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session in Olympia

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Habitat and Land Management

Project Goal:

Review state policies and programs for managing habitat and wildlife areas.

Project Description:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages land for wildlife habitat, including lands leased from the Department of Natural Resources. Currently, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering exchanging certain lands with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and may also stop leasing certain DNR lands. The Committee will conduct a work session and public hearing during the December Committee Assembly to examine the Department of Fish and Wildlife's policies and programs for managing habitat and wildlife areas, including issues such as access to public land.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session/public hearing in Olympia

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan